

July 24, 2003

The Honorable Ken Calvert Chairman, Water & Power Subcommittee Committee on Resources U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the United States Desalination Coalition I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 2828, the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act. We particularly appreciate the proposed authorization of a new, competitive grant program that would, in part, help fund the development of desalination projects.

The U.S. Desalination Coalition is made up of water management agencies and utilities from across the Nation who are in various stages of planning and developing both seawater and brackish water desalination projects. Our goal, simply put, is to encourage the Federal government to invest in the development of these facilities now in order to address the water supply crisis that many parts our country currently face. Like water managers throughout the United States, the members of the U.S. Desalination Coalition are struggling to address the long term challenges posed by draught increasing population, and competing demands for water from business, agriculture, and the environment. We believe that one of the ways of averting future water supply crises and ensuring that clean and reliable water is available to families, farms, and businesses lies in desalinating seawater and brackish surface and groundwater and making that water available for municipal and industrial uses.

The competitive grant program that would be authorized in Title I of your legislation has the potential to help spur the development of a new generation of water supply projects based on desalination. We think it is a wonderful starting place and we look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress to develop a comprehensive program for encouraging desalination that truly meets the needs of our members and the Nation.

Thank you again for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely

Executive Director